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1967/11/12

CITE: MAC 10817

DTG : 120741Z

FROM: GENERAL WESTMORELAND, COMUSMACV

TO : GENERAL WHEELER, CJCS, WASHINGTON

INFO: ADMIRAL SHARP, CINCPAC, HAWAII

REF: JCS9680 DTG 101539Z

1. BASED UPON POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE, A MACV STUDY HAS BEEN PREPARED OUTLINING THE ACTIONS THAT CAN BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE AND MODERNIZE RVNAF PRIOR TO THE ONSET OF A CEASE FIRE. MANY OF THE ACTIONS ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY WHICH ARE WITHIN MY AUTHORITY TO TAKE. OTHER ACTIONS WILL REQUIRE ASSISTANCE FROM WASHINGTON AND A NUMBER OF REQUESTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN FORWARDED. A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE STUDY AND THE ACTIONS I ENVISAGE NECESSARY TO IMPROVE RVNAF CAPABILITIES FOLLOWS.

2. THE STUDY IS BASED ON THREE SCENARIOS WHICH WERE DEVELOPED IN COORDINATION WITH THE EMBASSY. THE SCENARIOS ASSUME THREE TIME FRAMES FOR EFFECTING CHANGES IN RVNAF, SIX MONTHS, ONE YEAR AND TWO YEARS.

A. SCENARIO 1 - AN INFORMAL, GRADUAL REDUCTION OR SUSPENSION OF HOSTILITIES LEADING TO AN EVENTUAL POLITICAL SETTLEMENT BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM. NEGOTIATIONS ASSUMED TO BEGIN IN TWO YEARS.

B. SCENARIO 2 - HOSTILITIES CONTINUE UNTIL FINAL AGREEMENTS ARE NEGOTIATED. NEGOTIATIONS ASSUMED TO BEGIN IN ONE YEAR.

C. SCENARIO - HOSTILITIES CEASE OR ARE REDUCED PRIOR TO BEGINNING NEGOTIATIONS. NEGOTIATIONS ASSUMED TO

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BEGIN IN SIX MONTHS.

3. THE ACTIONS SURFACED BY THE STUDY FALL INTO THREE BASIC CATEGORIES:

A. THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AND ACTION IS UNDERWAY TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL;

B. THOSE THAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THE RESOURCES OF THIS COMMAND AND ARE JUST BEGINNING; AND

C. THOSE REQUIRING PROGRAMMING ACTIONS AND APPROVAL OF HIGHER HEADQUARTERS.

4. ACTIONS; LISTED BY CATEGORY UNDER EACH SCENARIO, FOLLOW:

A. SCENARIO (SIX MONTHS):

(1) PRESENTLY BEING ACCOMPLISHED.

(A) EXPEDITING REORGANIZATION OF ARVN AIRBORNE DIVISION BY ACTIVATING AN ADDITIONAL BATTALION AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT UNITS (ALREADY PROGRAMMED).

(B) FORMING 5TH RANGER GROUP FROM THREE RANGER BATTALIONS CURRENTLY IN FORCE STRUCTURE FOR SECURITY MISSION, CAPITAL MILITARY DISTRICT.

(C) ORGANIZING FOURTH REGIMENT FOR 1ST DIVISION TO REPLACE A REGIMENT DEPLOYED TO DMZ (ADDITIONAL REGIMENT WITHIN FORCE STRUCTURE).

(D) RAISING PRIORITY OF EQUIPMENT ISSUE TO RF/PF.

(2) CAPABLE OF BEING ACCOMPLISHED AND JUST BEGINNING:

(A) IMPROVING TRAINING RVNAF THROUGH USE OF ADDITIONAL ADVISORS TO BE TAKEN SELECTIVELY ON A SHORT TERM BASIS FROM US/FW UNITS AND INTERGRATED OPERATIONS.

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RAG'S BY PROVIDING USN IN-COUNTRY ASSETS.

(C) PROVIDING 44 ADDITIONAL 105MM HOWITZERS FROM IN COUNTRY ASSETS TO BRING ARVN UP TO TO&E.

(D) ENCOURAGING GVN TO INCREASE GOVERNMENT CIVILIAN WAGE SCALE.

(E) IMPROVEMENT OF VNN CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE CAPABILITY.

(3) ASSISTANCE REQUIRED FROM HIGHER AUTHORITY:

(A) PROVIDING ADDITIONAL ADVISORS TO RF/PF. DEFINITIVE NUMBERS ARE BEING DEVELOPED.

B. SCENARIO 2 (ONE YEAR)

(1) PRESENTLY BEING ACCOMPLISHED:

(A) ISSUING OF M-16 RIFLES TO ALL ARVN MANEUVER UNITS.

(B) PROVIDING RVNAF ADDITIONAL 2 1/2 TON TRUCKS TO FILL TO&E BY LOAN FROM USARV AND EXPEDITED MAP DELIVERIES.

(C) IMPROVING RVNAF LOGISTICAL AND MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES.

(2) CAPABLE OF BEING ACCOMPLISHED AND NOW BEGINNING.

(A) ACTIVATION OF THE THIRD REGIMENT FOR THE 23RD DIVISION CURRENTLY PROGRAMMED.

(B) PROVIDING 6 LCMM'S FROM USN IN-COUNTRY ASSETS TO INCREASE MINESWEEPING CAPABILITY.

(C) INCREASING FIREPOWER OF RF/PF BY ISSUE OF EXCESS BAR'S.

(3) ASSISTANCE REQUIRED FROM HIGHER AUTHORITY:

(A) PROVIDING M-60 MG AND 81MM MORTARS TO ARVN MANEUVER UNITS. (REQUEST FORWARDED TO JCS).

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EQUIPMENT.

C. SCENARIO 1 (TWO YEARS):

(1) PRESENTLY BEING ACCOMPLISHED:

(A) EXPANSION OF PSYWAR/POLWAR RADIO COVERAGE.

(B) INCREASED RF/PF RECRUITING EFFORT.

(2) CAPABLE OF BEING ACCOMPLISHED AND NOW

BEINNING:

(A) IMPROVEMENT OF LEADERSHIP AND TECHNICAL
TRAINING THROUGH MORE CJT WITH US/FW UNITS.

(3) ASSISTANCE REQUIRED FROM HIGHER AUTHORITY:

(A) IMPROVEMENT OF LEADERSHIP AND TECHNICAL
TRAINING THROUGH MORE OFF SHORE TRAINING.

(B) EXPEDITE TRAINING OF COMMUNICATIONS/
ELECTRONICS PERSONNEL FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA WIDEBAND SYSTEM.

(C) INCREASED QUOTAS TO NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
SHCOOLS.

(D) INCREASED LIAISON AND HELICOPTER PILOT
AND MAINTENANCE TRAINING.

5. I HAVE APPROVED THIS STURY FOR DEVELOPING PROGRAMMING
ACTIONS AND DETAILED IMPLEMENTING PLANS. BY THE END OF THE
YEAR I PLAN TO SUBMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE
NECESSARY.

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